

REMARKS

This is intended as a full and complete response to the Office Action dated April 11, 2005, having a shortened statutory period for response set to expire on July 11, 2005.

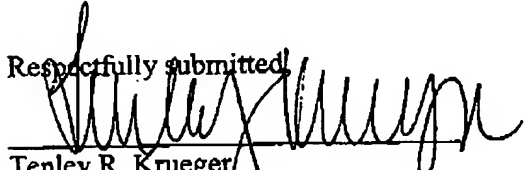
CLAIM REJECTIONS:

Claims 1-5, 8 and 18 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,437,043 (*Sosa*).

To further expand upon and clarify our earlier discussion, *Sosa* recites that 'the primary difference between a HIPS material and a TIPS material arises from the difference in the morphologies of the two materials' rubber phases. In the HIPS material, the rubber is present as a distribution of different sized well-defined spherical particles, ranging from about 0.5 up to about 15 microns in diameter. In TIPS materials, the rubber phase is present in 'domains' that have dimensions that will not refract visible light, and therefore appear to the human eye as transparent" (e.g., the rubber morphology that was previously discussed.) See, column 1, lines 30-40. Further, *Sosa* teaches polymerizing a butadiene monomer in a solvent comprising styrene monomer and then adding additional styrene to form TIPS, such TIPS having a specific morphology resulting in a transparent polymer. See, column 4, lines 10-25. In contrast, the present claims recite an impact modified polystyrene (i.e., HIPS, which has a different morphology than that of the TIPS disclosed in *Sosa*) having a haze value of less than or equal to 12 percent formed by dissolving a styrene-conjugated diene-styrene block copolymer in styrene monomer. See, claim 1 and page 13 of the specification. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection and allowance of the claims.

Claims 6-7, 9-17 and 19-30 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over *Sosa* in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,633,318 (*Bowen*). As demonstrated above, *Sosa* does not teach, show or suggest the features of the pending claims. *Bowen* does not supply the feature(s) missing from *Sosa* and therefore a detailed discussion of such reference is not deemed necessary. Having addressed all issues set out in the Office Action, Applicants respectfully submit that the claims are in condition for allowance and respectfully request the same.

Respectfully submitted,



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